

BULLETIN -- MARCH 13

Lenten penance services. We are happy to provide, for your convenience, the schedule for Lenten confession opportunities in the area. We shall keep you updated with any additional choices as we learn of them.

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| Sun., March 13 | 3 p.m. | Our Lady of Consolation, Rockford |
| Wed., March 16 | 2-3 p.m. | West Catholic H.S. cafeteria |

In addition, we have our regular confession schedule on Tuesday evenings at 6:30, Saturday afternoons from 3-4 p.m., and 2 hours each day during the MTW of Holy Week.

Congratulations to our newly confirmed! The following were confirmed by Bishop Walter A. Hurley, D.D., at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Tuesday, March 8, 2016:

Justin Martin "Luke the Evangelist" Du Mont
Margaret-Mary Chinazom "Teresa of Avila" Edozie
Annabell Emmi "Cecilia" Kozak
Cameron John "Isaac Jogues" Pohl
Alexander Michael "Lawrece" Robles
Corrine Ann "Elizabeth of Hungary" Vainavicz
Emma Elise "Lydwine" Williams.

Glory be to God! And thank you to their teacher, Mrs. Lindgren, and to their parents for guiding them along the path to complete initiation into the mysteries of our Faith.

A moment of truth. A couple weeks ago, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*, a case that considers whether or not a 2013 Texas law imposes an "undue burden" on women seeking abortions. The 2013 law requires doctors who perform abortions to have admitting privileges at a nearby hospital, and it requires all abortion clinics to meet standards of cleanliness, safety, and staffing requirements found in similar outpatient surgery facilities, or ambulatory surgical centers. Opponents of the law claim that it serves no medical purpose and is aimed at limiting women's access to abortions. Our parish kitchen is held to higher health standards than most abortion clinics, and is also subject to inspections to guarantee that the standards are being followed! What's the problem? The hypocrisy of the abortion crowd is manifest once again, as they claim their cause is sacrosanct to protect women's health, yet refuse any standards or inspections that would actually help to promote it. *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt* is one of the first cases considered by the U.S. Supreme Court since the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, leaving only eight justices to consider the issue. If there is a 4-4 tie, the decision of the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals will be upheld, which ruled the law did not place an "undue burden" on women and could be enforced. The only "undue burden," of course, would be on the industry butchers who might have to spend some of the profits from their lethal but lucrative trade to conform to basic medical standards. A decision is expected by the end of June.

Not only then, not only there . . . In 1999, Luxembourg's prime minister, Jean-Claude Juncker, who is today the president of the European Commission, was kind enough to explain the method of operation of the European Union's leaders. He said, "We decide something, put it out there, and wait for some time to see what happens. If there is no big brouhaha and no uprisings, because most people have not even understood what was decided, we'll continue -- step by step, until there is no way back." Sound familiar? It sounds like the typical behavior of government and academic elitists the world over, who imagine that they are the only ones capable of directing the affairs of nations and the affairs of others. Isn't that the attitude of the former Speaker of the House, who famously said regarding the Affordable Care Act, "We have to pass the bill so that you can find out what is in it"? Isn't that the attitude of the innumerable appointed bureaucrats who think up new regulations and fee schedules instead of having elected leaders craft laws and ask for taxes? Isn't that the attitude of five members of the Supreme Court who seem to be able to find new rights and definitions that no one three decades ago even imagined could be there? "Until there is no way back." A telling phrase, indeed.

Capital punishment. My old pastor out in the Washington, D.C., parish where I served during my canon law studies in 1979-81, had been ordained in 1942 for the Archdiocese of Baltimore and Washington before it was split into two after the Second World War. He told me a wonderful story about a venerable but formidable pastor who had reigned supreme at a church near Capitol Hill for decades. Many of his parishioners were among the high and mighty in the nation's capital, and that often provoked a regular tongue-lashing from the pulpit from a man who knew what was going on in the halls of government better than many of the actual participants. To say that his preaching was earthy and to the point would be doing him an injustice. He pulled no punches when descriptively telling his congregation what he thought of the executive, legislative, and judicial antics of the previous week or month.

One Sunday he apparently went too far, and Tuesday morning he received a call to report to the Archbishop's office in Baltimore at 10 a.m. Wednesday.

"Monsignor," the Archbishop said with no little anguish, "it's been reported to me by several from your congregation that this past Sunday you offended the vast majority by telling them they were not fit to eat with pigs. Is that true?"

"It is, Your Excellency," the pastor replied forthrightly.

"Well, then," the Archbishop grimaced, "I do not suggest, I *order* you to apologize to the people this coming Sunday, and to retract that statement. You may go."

The following Sunday, the pastor dutifully rose to the occasion. He began, "My dear friends, I have been ordered by the Archbishop to apologize and to retract a statement I made last Sunday. Those who were present will recall that I said you were not fit to eat with pigs. I am truly sorry, and I apologize."

He paused, as the congregation hung on his words. "And indeed, I was mistaken, and I retract what I said. I was wrong, and -- well, you ARE!! You ARE fit to eat with pigs!!! In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

And the Mass went on. And so did the pastor, for many more years. God bless you!

Fr. Den

Ah, the things we find . . . while looking up other things! A gem from the Archives: A Polish Resurrectionist Father in Chicago, reporting to his superiors in 1880 on the state of the house, notes that “Fr. Felix came to Chicago very sick. But now his appetite is Lithuanian and he eats the measure of three.” Hey, we’ll take that as a compliment, right? When you’re used to having the best cooks in the world, you get in the habit of cleaning your plate. Several times at one sitting, apparently.